

Senate Resolution 485

By: Senators Williams of the 39th, Brass of the 28th, Jordan of the 6th, Harrell of the 40th, Karinshak of the 48th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Redistricting and Reapportionment Study Committee; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly has an interest in ensuring that the redistricting
4 and reapportionment process is free, impartial, fair, accurate, convenient, and accessible to
5 all Georgians; and

6 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly believes in a transparent process of government;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, standards and definitions for redistricting must be established before the
9 redistricting process takes place.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

11 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Redistricting and
12 Reapportionment Study Committee.

13 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members. Three
14 members of the Senate shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, at least one of
15 whom shall be a member of the minority caucus. The President shall also appoint an
16 additional two nonlegislative members of the committee who are citizens of this state.
17 The President shall designate a legislative member of the committee as chairperson of the
18 committee.

19 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
20 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
21 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. In particular, the
22 committee shall study the redistricting and reapportionment standards, the means of
23 providing transparency in the redistricting and reapportionment process to allow
24 constituents to voice their opinions on maps through internet or public notice means, the

25 best practices for holding redistricting townhalls, and other matters related to the
26 redistricting and reapportionment process.

27 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
28 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
29 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
30 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

31 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

32 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided
33 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

34 (B) Members of the committee who are not legislators shall receive a daily expense
35 allowance in an amount the same as that specified in subsection (b) of Code
36 Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, as well as the mileage or
37 transportation allowance authorized for state employees.

38 (C) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
39 of the committee for more than seven days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
40 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
41 appropriated to the Senate.

42 (6) **Report.**

43 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
44 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the
45 same prior to the date of abolition specified in this resolution, subject to
46 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

47 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
48 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
49 of this paragraph.

50 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
51 abolition specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
52 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
53 the Secretary of the Senate.

54 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
55 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

56 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2019.